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Furthermore, the 35mer when expressed from a genetic construct, protected Schwann cells against NGF-induced death. c35 when expressed in soluble form can also protect cells against membrane bound c35. The inventors show in Figure 7 that soluble c35 can also protect against membrane-linked, expressed c35. A truncated form of c35, a 29mer (SEQ ID NO:11 and SEQ ID NO:12), also protected against membrane-bound c35, when in soluble form.--

In the Claims:

Please replace original Claim 9 with Claim 9, as revised:

- 9. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to any one of the proceeding claims comprising a nucleotide sequence substantially capable of hybridizing to SEQ ID NO:1 or its complementary form under low stringency conditions.--

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[ Please replace original Claim 10 with Claim 10, as revised: ]

- 10. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 9 comprising a nucleotide sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:7 or a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridizing to SEQ ID NO:7 or its complementary form under low stringency conditions or a nucleotide sequence having at least 60% identity to SEQ ID NO:7.--

[ Please replace original Claim 12 with Claim 12, as revised: ]

12. (Amended) A nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence:

$\{n_1 - \dots - n_x\}_b$  a  $\{n'_1 - \dots - n'_y\}_c$  a  $\{n''_1 - \dots - n''_z\}_d$

wherein

$\{n_1 - \dots - n_x\}$  is a sequence of x nucleotides encoding an extracellular portion of a receptor or ligand-binding molecule;

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$\{n'_1 - - - n'_y\}$  is a sequence of  $y$  nucleotides encoding a transmembrane peptide, polypeptide or protein or a molecule capable of inducing multimerisation;

$\{n''_1 - - - n''_z\}$  is a sequence of  $z$  nucleotides comprising a nucleotide sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:7 or a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:8 or a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridizing to SEQ ID NO:7 or a complementary form thereof under low stringency conditions such as at 42° C or a nucleotide sequence having at least 60% identity to SEQ ID NO:7;

$b, c$  and  $d$  may be the same or different and each is 0, 1 or  $>1$ ;

$x, y$  and  $z$  may be the same or different and each is 0, 1 or  $>1$ ;

$a$  is a nucleotide bond;

wherein when  $c$  is 1 or  $>1$  and  $d$  is 1 or  $>1$  and wherein when the molecule is expressed in a neuronal cell, the expression product signals, induces or otherwise facilitates cell death.--

[ Please replace original Claim 13 with Claim 13, as revised: ]

- 13. (Amended) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 12 wherein  $\{n_1 - - - n_x\}$  comprises the nucleotide sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 or is a nucleotide sequence having at least about 60% identity thereto or is capable of hybridizing thereto under low stringency conditions at 42° C.--

[ Please replace original Claim 14 with Claim 14, as revised: ]